

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A method for updating firmware in an electronic device of a system, ~~wherein the system comprises the electronic device and a network~~, the method comprising:

generating updating information having a lifecycle for updating the firmware to a particular version of the firmware, in a generation environment;

saving the generated updating information in a storage;

communicating the saved updating information to a distribution environment comprising a network that distributes the updating information to one or more electronic devices; and

populating the updating information in an update store that acts as a repository of update packages whose lifecycle may be managed; and

managing the lifecycle of the updating information by enabling and disabling distribution of the updating information according to a state in the lifecycle of the updating information.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12 wherein the method further comprises packaging the saved updating information before communicating it to the distribution environment.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12 wherein the distribution environment comprises an updating storage and a server.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving requests for updating information;

retrieving the requested updating information from the update store;

facilitating downloads of the requested updating information;

verifying reception of the downloaded updating information; and

utilizing the downloaded updating information to update firmware in the electronic device.

16. (Currently amended) A system that facilitates updating of at least one of firmware and software in electronic devices, wherein the system supports lifecycle management of firmware updating information, the system comprising:

a network that distributes updating information having a lifecycle for updating the at least one of firmware and software to a particular version to the electronic devices, the network having a lifecycle management component that manages the lifecycle of the updating information by enabling and disabling distribution of the updating information according to a state in the lifecycle of the updating information, the network comprising an update store comprising a repository of update packages having lifecycles managed by the lifecycle management component.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 16 wherein the network further comprises a management console employed for lifecycle management of the updating information.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 16 wherein lifecycle management comprises at least one of:

facilitating loading of the updating information;

facilitating deleting of the updating information; and

facilitating editing of status information of the updating information.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 16 wherein the network further comprises a lifecycle management component that manages the lifecycle of the electronic devices.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 19 wherein the network further comprises a management console employed for lifecycle management of the electronic devices.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 19 wherein lifecycle management of the electronic devices comprises at least one of:

provisioning of the electronic devices;

determining change of ownership of the electronic devices;

determining change of subscription of the electronic devices; and

determining when an electronic device is no longer in use in the system.

22. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 16 wherein the electronic devices maintain statistics information regarding ~~the~~a total number of distributed updating information and ~~the~~a time of distribution of the updating information and communicate the statistics information to a server.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 22 wherein the lifecycle management component records the total number of distributed updating information and the time of distribution of the updating information for each distributed updating information to the electronic devices.

Claims 24-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the lifecycle management system causes a change in the lifecycle state of updating information stored in a network that communicates the updating information to the one or more electronic devices.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein a particular level of system operator authority is required to change the lifecycle state of the stored updating information and to specify a time when the change of the lifecycle state of the stored updating information is to occur.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the method further comprises:

updating state information for the particular version of updating information in a database of lifecycle information for update information.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the method further comprises:

updating state information in a database of lifecycle information for the one or more electronic devices.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein lifecycle management of updating information comprises one or more of: creating updating information, deleting updating information, editing updating information, changing state information for updating information, specifying recipients of distributed updating information, and/or specifying a time to begin distributing update information.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein updating information comprises an update package.

32. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein updating information comprises an update package.

33. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein lifecycle management of updating information comprises one or more of: creating updating information, deleting updating information, editing updating information, changing state information for updating information, specifying recipients of distributed updating information, and/or specifying a time to begin distributing update information.

34. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein lifecycle management of electronic devices comprises one or more of: provisioning of an electronic device, determining a change of electronic device ownership, determining a change of a subscription for an electronic device, and/or determining that an electronic device is no longer in use.